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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 18 | Humidity 45% Light rain Sensex 76,070 | Nifty 23,581 | Gold 1,55,631 | Silver 2,51,786 | Dollar 92.40 | Euro 106.47 | GBP 123.28

FLOUR FLAW

Study finds 5 out of 10 samples of gram flour, both branded and unbranded varieties, to be adulterated

PAGE 3

TENTACLES OF GREED

1,528 cybercrime cases till Feb in city as police trace crores siphoned through mule-account laundering networks

PAGE 5

60,954 cases booked in emission-related violations, but B'luru can't breathe easy as idling vehicles release toxic fumes in chock-a-traffic conditions, bad roads or infra work spew dust clouds, old vehicles spread black smoke

SMOKIN' WHEELS ARE INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

As public transport falters, number of cars, bikes explodes on our roads

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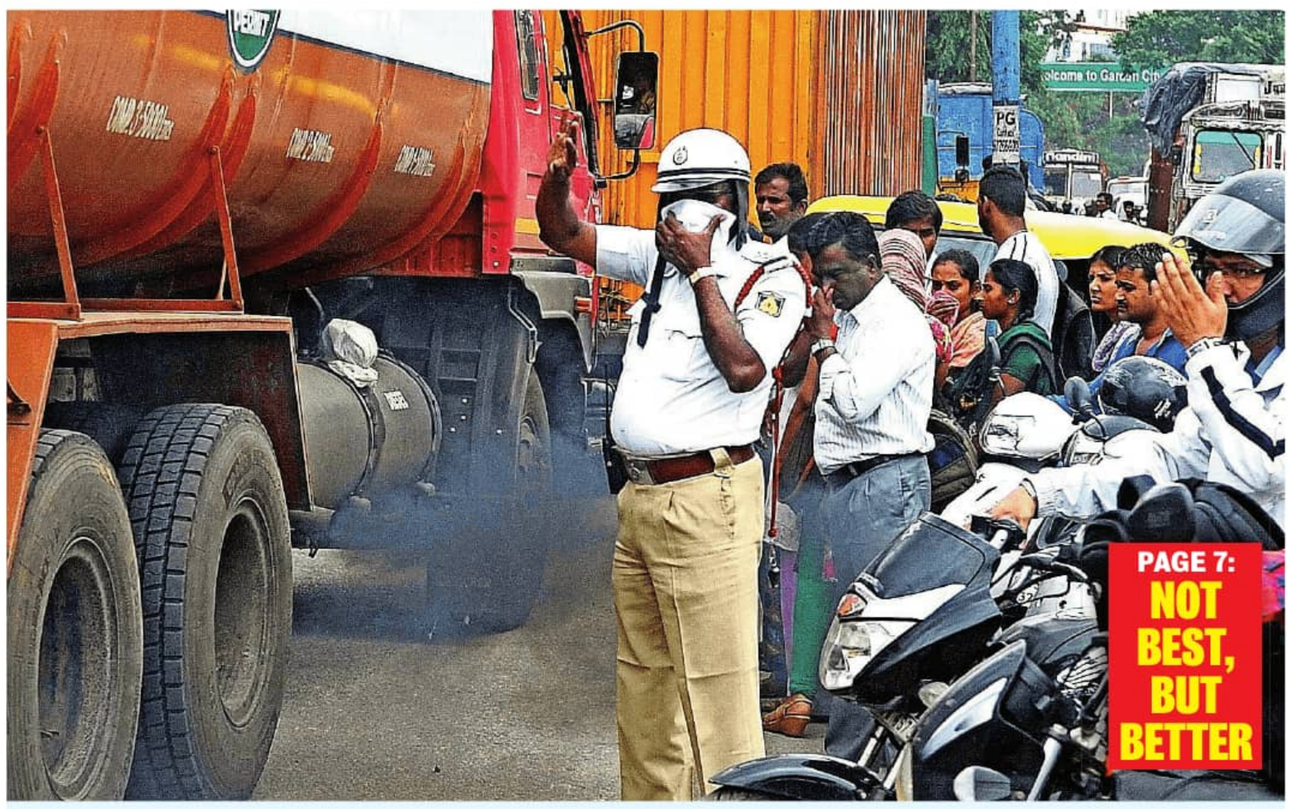

PAGE 7: NOT BEST, BUT BETTER

A large-scale enforcement drive against polluting vehicles in Bengaluru has revealed significant violations, but experts say the city's air quality challenges go beyond what the numbers capture. During 2025–26 (up to December 2025), authorities inspected 8,88,582 vehicles, booked 60,954 cases, and collected ₹7.326 crore in fines for emission-related violations.

While the figures indicate active enforcement, transport and environmental experts highlight that day-to-day traffic conditions, especially prolonged idling, continue to worsen pollution levels across the city.

The enforcement drive involved routine roadside checks, deployment of inspection units, and coordination between transport and traffic departments. Vehicles found without valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates or those emitting smoke are penalised. Repeat offenders and commercial vehicles were among those frequently booked during the checks.

> **"Enforcement against high-emission vehicles, including old trucks and garbage vans that release tons of noxious fumes, remains weak. Alarmingly, many of these polluting vehicles are operated by the civic agency itself** —Priya Chetty Rajagopal, Founder- Heritage Beku

Transport expert Rajkumar Dugar said, "Bengaluru is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

War bytes

Tech city tries to cope with around 10% spike in laptop prices as global supply crunch hits hard

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Bengaluru is beginning to feel the impact of a global supply crunch as laptop prices rise sharply. From students to software professionals, many are now reworking budgets or postponing purchases as devices become costlier amid rising component prices and disrupted supply chains.

Retailers in India's IT capital say laptop prices have already gone up by 10% and more in recent weeks, with further increases expected. Select models of a few entry-level laptops that had a starting price from 30,000 are now being sold moving above 45,000, creating concern among buyers in a city heavily dependent on technology.

The primary reason behind the spike is the increase in prices of key components such as RAM and graphics processing units (GPUs). These are essential for most modern laptops, and any fluctuation in their cost directly reflects in retail prices. "We are receiving updated price lists almost every week. Even we are finding it difficult to keep up," said Prakash, a retailer in SP Road. Another seller added, "Customers think we are overcharging, but the reality is that our purchase cost itself has gone up."

The situation has been worsened by shortages of materials like helium

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Just joking

Sharul Channa will be bringing her take on identity, relationships, gender expectations, and everyday social contradictions, in her latest stand-up comedy show titled 'Saree, These Are Just Joke'. **Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield; When: March 20, 7.30 pm**

02 Tune in

Banyan Tree Events is presenting Symphony of Santoor, a grand musical experience which reimagines the instrument within a sweeping orchestral canvas, while retaining the depth and purity of Indian classical tradition. **Where: Maanikya Hall, Chamara Vajra; When: March 18, 8 pm**

03 Nature's pulse

Kapila Nahender presents Pockets of Resistance, a new body of work that examines the subtle yet powerful ways in which nature continues to exist within the dense fabric of contemporary cities through a series of layered oil paintings. **Where: Venkatappa Art Gallery; When: March 20 to 29, 11 am to 6 pm**

04 Puppet masters

Ranga Shankara is presenting 'Chippi, The Chipkali', a puppet play featuring the tale of a baby lizard who loses its tail and is mocked by others, as part of Take a Child to the Theatre 2026 campaign. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: March 20, 7.30 pm**

05 Folk celebration

Indofuzon presents Baithak 2.0, an evening that blends contemporary fusion with classical and folk influences, bringing together powerful vocals and rich instrumentation for an immersive live music experience. **Where: Indian Craft Brewery (ICB), Nagawara; When: March 21, 8 pm**

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Prices stay calm as demand drops 30% ahead of Ugadi

With Ugadi scheduled for Thursday, consumers in Bengaluru are witnessing an unusual trend, festive essentials have not seen the typical price surge, while vegetable rates have actually softened. Traders say wholesale grocery demand has dropped by nearly 30 per cent, largely due to reduced offtake from hotels and catering businesses impacted by the ongoing Middle East crisis. As several hotels remain shut or operate with trimmed menus, bulk purchases of essentials have declined, keeping prices stable in retail markets.
Key Ugadi ingredients such as toor dal, chana dal and jaggery remain steady, offering relief to households preparing traditional dishes. Most pulses and grains have also avoided price hikes, though edible oil has seen a slight increase. The slowdown in hospitality demand has also pushed vegetable prices lower. "Compared to last year, trade has dropped by around 30 per cent," said Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, President of the APMC Food Grains Association. With school holidays underway and fewer financial pressures on families, markets have still seen festive crowds, but without the usual spike in prices.

Perseverance marks candidates' success

Candidates who were felicitated for success in Civil Services Exam, including many who cleared after multiple attempts, urge aspirants to persist in pursuing goals despite setbacks

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Several successful candidates of the UPSC Civil Services Examination were felicitated on Monday at Ravindra Kalakshetra, with many of them having studied in government schools and coming from rural backgrounds. They attributed their achievement to qualities such as hard work, dedication, patience, perseverance, and humility, emphasising the importance of learning from setbacks and continuing to strive toward their goals.

Chandrasekhar, from Channuruke village in Shahapur Taluk of Yadgir district, cleared the Civil Services Examination on his eighth attempt after seven unsuccessful tries, highlighting his persistence and determination. "I am from an agricultural family. I had studied from Class 1 to Class 8 at the government school. My brother Devandra, who works as a senior scientist at IIHR, is my inspiration. He guided me on how to apply and prepare for the Civil Services Examination. My rank is 880. I may get a posting with the Indian Revenue Service. I want to convey a message to students from rural areas to focus on education and have more dedication to taste success," Chandrasekhar said.

Many candidates who cleared UPSC Civil Services Examination were felicitated on Monday at Ravindra Kalakshetra

Nivedita C Bhavimani from Yadgir said she has been preparing for the Civil Services Examination since 2020, while continuing to work until 2023. "I quit the job in 2023 and came to Bengaluru to prepare for the examinations. I joined India4IAS in Bengaluru for guidance. I got 469th rank and expect to get posting with Indian Administrative Service (IAS). I am ready to work in any state. My message to the prospective candidates is to dream big and strive hard to reach the target. I am of the opinion that women can rule the country provided dedication and hard work," she said.

Sagar Ashwathappa from Neduminahalli in Kolar Taluk secured 641st rank in the Civil Services Examination. He completed his schooling at a government school and said that late IAS officer DK Ravi was his inspiration. "I made five attempts to pass the examination but in vain. I succeeded in reaching the target in the sixth attempt. I want to thank my parents and friends. I am an example of how one can become successful if he has good friends. My message to the prospective candidates is to have perseverance till they reach the goal because it is not easy to crack the exam in one attempt. I want them to keep trying till they achieve their target," he said.

Minister for Agriculture N Chaluvarayaswamy was the chief guest at the felicitation function, which also featured retired IAS officer Dr CS Kedar, retired IFS officer Dr GN Srikantaiah, and Srinivas PC as guests.

Apartment owners push for enactment of KAOMA 2025

The Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF) has called on the state government to enact the long-pending Karnataka Apartment Ownership and Management Act (KAOMA 2025) during the ongoing Budget Session, while also seeking the immediate withdrawal of discriminatory solid waste management charges levied on apartment complexes. BAF office-bearers expressed disappointment over what they described as legislative inaction. "It has been two years since Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar assured the Assembly of a new law to replace the outdated 1972 Act. Although the KAOMA 2025 draft has been ready since July 2025 and public consultations were conducted after our December 2 press conference, the bill has still not been tabled," said Satish Mallya, BAF President. He emphasised that the delay is adversely affecting lakhs of apartment residents across Karnataka.

In addition to legislative concerns, BAF raised serious objections to recent notifications by Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), which have classified apartments with over 100 units as Bulk Waste Generators, imposing higher fees. BAF officials pointed out that apartment communities have been practicing in-situ wet waste processing and source segregation since 2016, and penalising them financially is both unfair and discriminatory. **— BMB**

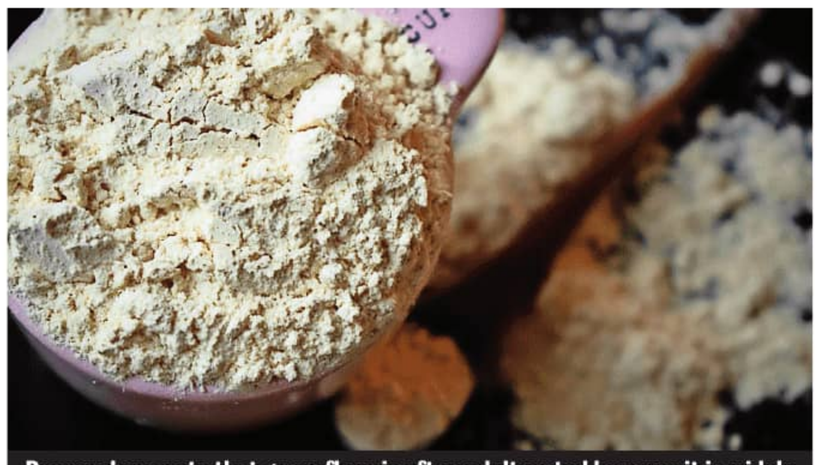
SSLC exams begin today; over 9 lakh students to appear across Karnataka

The SSLC Examination-1 will commence across Karnataka from Wednesday and continue until April 2, with a total of 9,02,889 students registered this year. This includes 8,12,855 fresh candidates, 62,845 repeaters and 27,189 private candidates. Examinations will be conducted at 15,941 centres from 10 am to 1.15 pm. The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has put in place strict monitoring measures to prevent malpractices, including surveillance, webcasting and coordination with the police department. Students have also been provided with model question papers and blueprints through the official portal. Authorities have enforced a 200-metre restriction zone around exam centres, with photocopy shops and cyber centres ordered shut on exam days. CCTV surveillance has been installed at sensitive centres, and strict action has been warned against those attempting to leak or circulate question papers on social media. To support students, free bus travel has been arranged on KSRTC and BMTC services upon showing hall tickets. **— BMB**

Maternity leave approval for teachers to be streamlined under new policy

In a move aimed at easing challenges faced by women teachers, the state government has proposed a new policy ensuring that maternity leave applications are approved within 15 days of submission. School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa informed the Legislative Council that clear timelines and structured guidelines will be introduced, along with a new transfer category to support women during and after maternity. The policy will also allow teachers to combine maternity leave with childcare leave, with approvals to be granted within the same 15-day window. Importantly, women returning from maternity leave will be posted to a location of their choice until their child turns five, offering greater flexibility and support. To ensure academic continuity, guest teachers will be deputed during the leave period. The minister said the initiative is being framed with a humane approach to address long standing concerns, while also confirming that the annual teacher transfer process will be completed before June 1 to avoid disruption to the academic year.
— BMB

5 in 10 gram flour samples found to be adulterated



Researchers note that gram flour is often adulterated because it is widely consumed, more expensive than other flours and difficult to detect visually

Many households assume that packaged flour sold in shops is pure and safe. However, a recent scientific study has raised serious concerns, revealing that half the gram flour (besan) samples tested in Bengaluru were adulterated, even when sold as pure products. The findings highlight how everyday kitchen staples used for preparing popular dishes such as bajjis, bondas, pakoras and rotis may not always be what the packet claims.

Research findings

The study was conducted by researchers at the Prayoga Institute of Education Research, who examined 10 commercially available gram flour samples, including both branded and unbranded varieties purchased from different parts of Bengaluru. The analysis found that five of the ten samples contained adulterants, most commonly yellow chickpea flour and corn flour. While these ingredients are edible, researchers say they are not the same as pure gram flour and alter the nutritional value of the product.

The research was carried out by Padmapriya Rajan, research associate at Prayoga, under the guidance of Dr KS Nagabhushana, Director of Research. The findings were later published in the American Journal of Food Science and Technology.

Testing method

Instead of conventional chemical tests, the team used a non-destructive optical technique called birefringence, which allows materials with subtle structural differences to be identified under a polarised light microscope. Using this approach, researchers were able to clearly distinguish gram flour from other flours that look visually similar.

According to the researchers, gram flour is often targeted for adulteration because it is widely used and relatively more expensive than other flours. Cheaper alternatives such as corn flour or yellow pea flour can be mixed with it without being easily detected by appearance.

Nutrition impact

Researchers say the adulteration may not cause immediate harm, but it can significantly alter the nutritional profile of the flour. Gram flour is commonly consumed for its high protein content, especially by people managing diabetes or following calorie-conscious diets. Mixing it with other flours increases carbohydrate content and reduces protein levels, meaning consumers may not be getting the nutritional value they expect.

"Gram flour can be visually similar to other flours, which makes adulteration difficult to detect with the naked eye. Using birefringence, we can identify these differences within minutes without chemical testing," said Padmapriya Rajan, explaining the study.

Dr KS Nagabhushana said scientific tools like this could play an important role in improving food safety. "Advanced imaging and material analysis can provide a reliable and non-destructive method to identify adulteration. Such techniques could help regulatory agencies detect malpractices and protect consumers," he said.

Consumer concerns

For many consumers, the findings have come as a shock. Nithya Joseph, a homemaker from Jayanagar, said families trust packaged products believing they are safe. "We buy branded flour thinking it is pure. If even those are adulterated, it becomes very difficult for consumers to know what they are eating," she said.

Another consumer, Vivek Kumar, an IT professional in Whitefield, said the study raises broader concerns about food quality. "Gram flour is used in so many snacks at home. If half the samples tested are mixed with other flours, it shows there needs to be stricter monitoring," he said. **BMB**

Till death do them part: Man on the run after murdering betrothed

A 19-year-old woman was reportedly murdered by her alleged fiancé at an abandoned house reported within the limits of DJ Halli Police Station in Bengaluru on Tuesday morning. The accused, identified as Shabeel (20), is currently absconding, and police have launched a search to trace him.

The deceased, Zoya (19), was recently engaged to Shabeel, and the couple was reportedly planning to get married soon. According to police, the incident occurred at around 6 am in an abandoned house near Sakkare Mandi in DJ Halli, which reportedly

belongs to the accused's family.

Preliminary investigation suggests that Shabeel had taken Zoya to the dilapidated house early in the morning. During their meeting, an argument is believed to have broken out between the two. In a fit of rage, Shabeel allegedly attacked Zoya with a sharp weapon and slit her throat, killing her on the spot. He later fled from the scene. The crime came to light when members of Shabeel's family arrived at the house and found the girl lying in a pool of blood. They immediately alerted the police.

Upon receiving the information, DJ Halli police rushed to the spot and conducted a preliminary investigation. The body has been shifted to a hospital for post-mortem examination. Police said the exact motive behind the murder is yet to be ascertained. A case has been registered, and efforts are underway to apprehend the accused. **BMB**

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Hebbal stretch turns dusty disaster for daily commuters

Dust from the dug-up service road fills the air, leaving commuters struggling and pushing residents to demand quicker repairs and immediate relief

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(1) A portion of the service road near Veerannapalya; (2) A stretch of the road full of dust

Thousands of motorists are facing severe problems due to dust on the service road between Eerannapalya and Hebbal Junction on the Outer Ring Road. Pedestrians also find it difficult to walk as the footpath was damaged during water pipeline work carried out by the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) a few months ago. Motorists, pedestrians and shop owners are urging authorities to restore the road quickly and provide relief from dust-related issues.

"The condition of the service road is pathetic. It is full of dust. The footpath is also damaged. It has become tough for motorists, especially two-wheeler riders, to commute on this road. I want the authorities concerned to asphalt the road that was dug up for laying water pipes," said Ram Kumara Nagaraj, who works at Manyata Tech Park.

Pedestrians and BMTC commuters heading towards Eerannapalya have complained about heavy dust causing inconvenience. "We need to cover our nostrils with a handkerchief to protect ourselves from dust. I want the authorities to asphalt the road as early as possible for the benefit of not only pedestrians but also motorists," said Bhuvana C, a resident. Eateries and petty shop owners along the stretch say the dust has become a nuisance. "I have to clean the display cabinet glass frequently due to the dust. I had to wear a mask to protect me from the dust. The BWSSB engaged a contractor to dig the road for laying water pipes but no effort is made to restore the road," said a bakery owner on condition of anonymity.

Motorists have also demanded temporary measures to control dust. "I am fed up with the BWSSB authorities for not doing anything to mitigate our woes. If they do not have resources to restore the road, they should decide to sprinkle water thrice a day to reduce dust," said Purushotham S, a two-wheeler rider.

Meanwhile, BWSSB Assistant Executive Engineer Dhananjaya said the road will be asphalted soon. "We are waiting for soil consolidation. We have already filled the dug-up portion of the road with wet mix. We will make arrangements for sprinkling water to reduce dust on this road," he said.

"We need to cover our nostrils with a handkerchief to protect us from dust. I want the authorities to asphalt the road as early as possible for the benefit of not only pedestrians but also motorists –Bhuvana C (resident)

Regular vehicle checks, strict action missing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

witnessing extensive idling of vehicles due to start-stop traffic conditions, where vehicles move barely 100 metres before halting again at signals or due to congestion, often with engines still running. This leads to a high concentration of exhaust emissions in localised pockets. Even when vehicles are technically within permissible emission limits, the cumulative impact significantly deteriorates air quality, particularly in terms of particulate matter such as PM2.5 and PM10. Additionally, harmful gases including nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons, and carbon dioxide (CO_2) continue to pollute the environment."

He added that the dust pollution arising from poorly maintained roads and footpaths is compounding this issue. "When debris gets suspended in the air and is inhaled by commuters, it poses serious health risks. There is an urgent need for stricter enforcement measures. Government-operated vehicles, including garbage collection trucks, often emit thick smoke and generate excessive noise, which further adds to the problem. The authorities, especially the Transport Department, must ensure rigorous and regular vehicle inspections and take accountability."

Under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, it is mandatory that all vehicles comply with prescribed emission standards. Vehicles that emit excessive smoke, particulate matter, or harmful gases beyond the permissible limits are considered in violation of the Act. Authorities have the power to penalise such vehicles, including imposing fines, issuing notices, or even suspending their registration. Additionally, vehicles must carry a valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate, and enforcement agencies are empowered to conduct random checks and take action against polluting vehicles to ensure air quality standards are maintained.

Weak enforcement, poor coordination

Priya Chetty Rajagopal, Founder-Heritage Beku told BM that across Bengaluru, air quality measurements vary widely across locations and time frames, reflecting heavy pollution pockets, especially in traffic-dense areas.

"Enforcement against high-emission vehicles, including old trucks and garbage vans that release tons of noxious fumes, remains weak. Alarmingly, many of these polluting vehicles are operated by the civic agency itself."

She said that the RTO was doing very little to manage the massive influx of new vehicles registered every year. "There is also insufficient government push toward electric or hybrid vehicles, and public transport — including suburban rail, Metro, and buses — could be far more effective. While the electric bus fleet has made some progress, much more needs to be done. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board must leverage its authority to enforce stricter noise and air pollution standards, setting higher benchmarks for vehicles, citizens, and government operations. Ultimately, everyone knows what is right and wrong, but institutionalisation, effective implementation, outcome-focused monitoring, and inter-agency coordination — as might have been achieved through a Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (UMTA)—are severely lacking. This gap is not only dangerous but also a major obstacle to improving Bengaluru's air quality," Rajagopal said

Urban strategist Vinod Jacob said vehicular pollution in Bengaluru has surged in tandem with the exploding number of vehicles on our roads. "To combat this, we must enforce regular vehicle maintenance, mandatory pollution certificates, periodic checks, and stringent fines to ensure compliance. Government and yellow-board vehicles, which clock the highest mileage, demand especially rigorous emission testing, fitness certificates, alongside scrutiny of their service, insurance, and maintenance records. At major junctions, air purifiers lie idle or dysfunctional amid alarmingly high pollution levels. Meanwhile, dust from ongoing construction pollutes our streets. GBA must prioritise swift clearing of debri after completion of projects," said Vinod Jacob.

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Waste dumping

Jayanagar

SST Chambers on 36th Cross, Jayanagar 5th Block, is reportedly dumping garbage outside its premises daily, causing inconvenience and raising hygiene concerns.

Abandoned vehicle

Jayanagar

An unidentified car has remained parked on 30th Cross, Jayanagar 7th Block for months, causing inconvenience to residents.

Walkway obstruction

Jayanagar

Illegal cigarette stalls near Dassault Systems in Ward 168, Jayanagar, have occupied the footpath, forcing pedestrians onto the road and endangering safety.

Cop intervenes, prevents suicide

Cop rescues man attempting suicide amid mounting debt and distress

A 38-year-old Rapido bike taxi rider was rescued from an alleged suicide attempt on a railway track under the jurisdiction of Yelahanka Police Station on Sunday evening, following the swift response of a police constable on patrol duty.

According to police, the Police Control Room received an emergency alert stating that a man was lying on a railway track, apparently attempting to end his life. Responding immediately, Head Constable Sridhar Murthy, who was on Cheetah patrol duty, rushed to the location.

On reaching the spot, Murthy found the man lying on the railway track after allegedly consuming alcohol. Without wasting time, the constable pulled him away from the track and moved him to a safe location, preventing a potential tragedy.

A preliminary inquiry revealed that the man was Vijay Kumar, a Rapido bike taxi rider. Police said he had taken a business loan of ₹28 lakh nearly four years ago but suffered heavy financial losses. Due to mounting interest, the debt had reportedly risen to nearly ₹1 crore. Distressed by the financial burden and alleged harassment from moneylenders, Vijay Kumar had been under severe stress. Police also said he was living separately from his wife and son, which further affected him emotionally.

A resident from a nearby apartment noticed the situation, recorded a video, and alerted the 112 emergency helpline. After rescuing him, Murthy counselled Vijay Kumar and later handed him over to his brother. Senior police officials commended the constable for his timely action and humane approach. —BMB

Rage killing after mother insult

Repeated verbal abuse targeting mother triggers violent attack, young warehouse worker killed by colleague

A 22-year-old warehouse worker was allegedly murdered by his colleague in Avalahalli police station limits late Monday night, following a prolonged dispute in which the victim had reportedly been repeatedly abusing the accused's mother.

The deceased has been identified as Kunal Kumar (22), a native of Bihar, who was residing at Attimara, Gorvigere, near Kannamangala Post. He was working in the cold storage section of a warehouse in the area. The accused, MD Nasarulla (24), also a native of Motihari district in Bihar, was working as a warehouse helper and staying in Gorvigere.

According to police, the incident occurred around 12.30 am on March 17 at the residence where the victim was staying. A preliminary investigation revealed that the accused and the deceased had frequent quarrels over the past few weeks. Police said Kunal Kumar had allegedly been abusing the accused's mother using foul language for nearly 15 days over minor issues.

Enraged by the repeated insults, Nasarulla allegedly attacked Kunal Kumar, leading to his death. Following the incident, the matter was reported to the police. A case has been registered at Avalahalli Police Station. Police have secured the accused, and further investigation into the incident is underway. —BMB

Scam nets tighten across city

Bengaluru cybercrime tally hits 1,528 cases, as investigators trace crores siphoned through sprawling mule-account laundering networks

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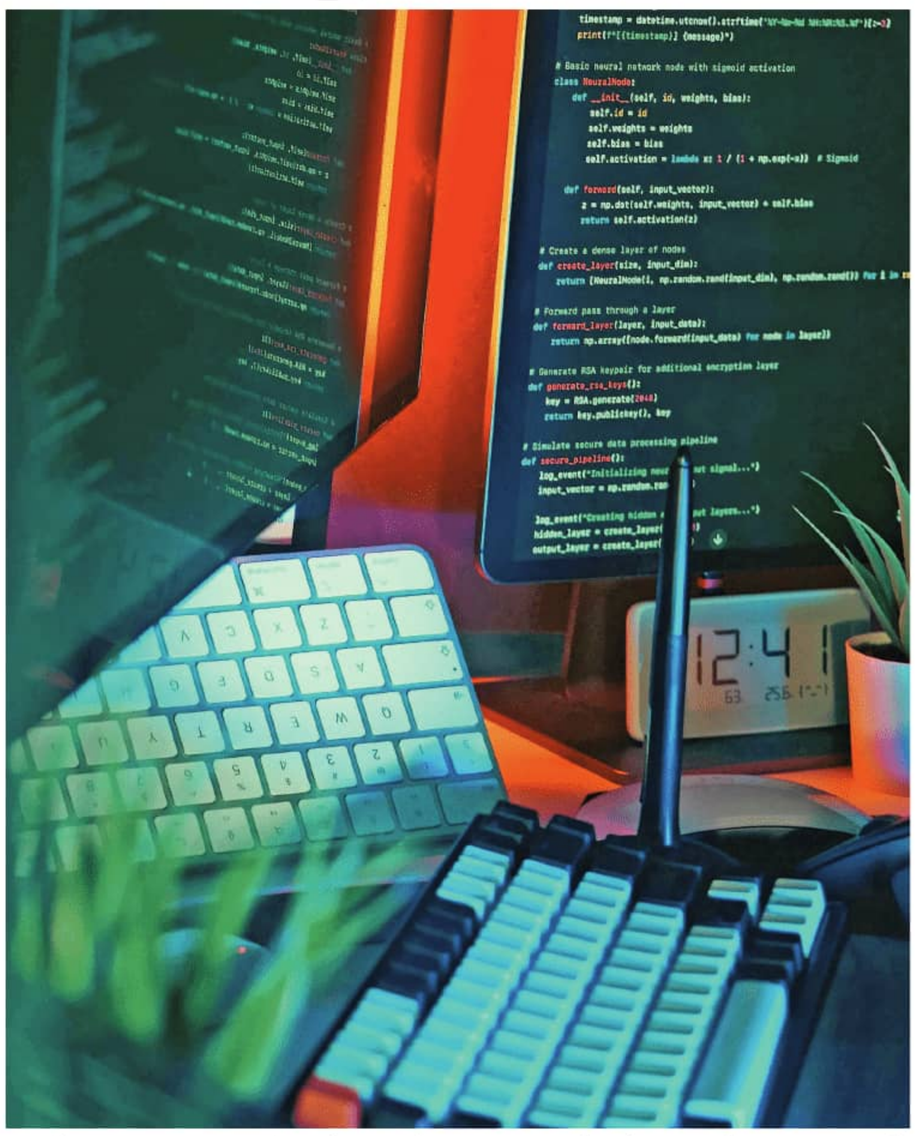

Cybercrime continues to pose a major challenge for the city's law enforcement agencies. The Bengaluru police have registered 1,528 cybercrime cases up to February 28, with losses amounting to 1,725,927,133. In connection with these cases, police have arrested 45 individuals across nine detected cases, officials said. While concerns are growing over the rise in cybercrime cases, Dr Pronab Mohanty, Director General of Police, Karnataka Cyber Command, believes such crimes can be reduced to a large extent if the root cause of mule accounts is thoroughly analysed and effectively curbed.

According to data from Bengaluru City Police, previously from 2023 to 2025 a total of 45,971 cases have been reported in Bengaluru. Among the various forms of digital fraud, investment scams remain one of the most prevalent, consistently ranking among the top five cybercrimes reported in the city. A senior police official said that while the methods used by fraudsters continue to evolve, the backbone of many cybercrime networks remains the widespread use of mule bank accounts.

Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated on February 11 that the government had identified more than 19 lakh mule bank accounts used to channel illegal funds and had prevented suspicious transactions worth ₹2,038 crore. Mule accounts are commonly used by criminals to launder illicit money, often through individuals who are lured with promises of quick cash or pressured into allowing their bank accounts to be used. The funds are then transferred through a chain of interconnected accounts, making it difficult for authorities and the Reserve Bank of India to trace and recover the money.

According to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), more than 90% of money mule transactions are directly associated with cybercrimes such as phishing, malware attacks, and online fraud. Meanwhile, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) reports that nearly 4,000 mule accounts are flagged every day in India. These accounts function as intermediaries, allowing fraudsters to transfer and launder illicit money through multiple bank accounts, thereby concealing their identities and evading security mechanisms.

The proliferation of mule accounts is largely driven by "accounts for hire" and "work-from-home" schemes, often organised through cooperative-style networks that facilitate the movement of illicit funds. A recent crackdown, which led to the arrest of 156 key accused, exposed a statewide retail network involved in supplying mule accounts for cybercrime operations. Investigations revealed a structured system in which such accounts were procured, managed and distributed for use in various cyber fraud activities.

BangaloreMirror
Police get behind mule accounts, crack down on cyber fraudster and arrest 156 as more people step forward to reveal their bank accounts are being misused for dubious ends
BREAKING THE BANK
8,786 complaints help police trace 969 such accounts

BM reported on the mule-account network on March 13

Investigations also revealed that data aggregators, or "herders", systematically collect personal documents and banking details from unsuspecting individuals who may not understand the risks. In many cases, bank or personal accounts are opened in the names of relatives or acquaintances and are then managed by organised operators as though they were commercial entities. These aggregated accounts are later packaged and sold as kits (including credentials, SIM cards and banking apps) to cybercriminal networks, enabling them to move and withdraw fraudulent funds while concealing the identities of the main offenders.

"Investment frauds have increased. In many cases, victims are lured through social media advertisements, messaging apps or fake investment platforms promising high returns. Once the victim transfers money, it is quickly moved through multiple mule accounts, making it difficult to trace," a senior police officer said.

Officials deploy artificial intelligence monitoring tools, urging citizens vigilance while investigators dismantle organised syndicates recruiting vulnerable individuals for laundering

Pronab Mohanty said curbing mule accounts is key to tackling cybercrime, as they are widely used to receive and launder illegal funds. Police are focusing on identifying these accounts and the people behind them to disrupt organised fraud networks. Investigations show cybercriminals exploit banking loopholes using sophisticated methods. Authorities are working with banks, which can flag suspicious transactions—such as sudden large deposits in low-activity accounts—through better monitoring and verification.

Mohanty added that AI and machine learning tools at the Command Centre are helping detect unusual patterns, flag fraud and enable quicker action.

Officials said a crackdown on mule account networks is showing results, while urging people to avoid dubious schemes and not share bank details, stressing awareness and quick reporting.

CRIME FILES

Thief attacks man, flees scene

A young man was suddenly attacked by a phone snatcher near Koramangala Bus Stand on Sunday. The man was waiting to catch his bus to Bommansandra when the attacker attempted to snatch his phone. When the victim tried to walk away, the accused started hitting him on the nose, causing it to bleed. A video of the victim was posted on Instagram under the username @amany.eafa. People present in the area tried chasing the attacker and prevented the situation from worsening by protecting the victim from further harm.

Despite the crowd's efforts, the phone snatcher managed to flee the scene, after which some people helped the disoriented victim to safety and sent him home.

According to locals, such incidents have become a common sight in crowded areas such as bus stands and railway stations, posing a threat to public safety. The Koramangala Police, in an update on social media, said they are currently tracing the victim and will lodge an FIR. —BMB

Predator nabbed after hostel drama

A man, identified as Manu Sharma, was arrested by the Indiranagar Police for allegedly harassing and attempting to assault a woman at a hostel last Wednesday.

According to the complaint filed by the 28-year-old woman, the incident took place between 8.50 pm and 9.50 pm at a popular hostel chain in the area. Sharma, who stays at the same hostel, had allegedly been harassing the complainant for several days, insisting that they get together. Despite her repeated attempts to refuse him, he continued to trouble her and tried to contact her through the complainant's friend. The incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed at the hostel. According to the footage, the situation escalated when Sharma shouted vulgar and derogatory insults at a woman and her friend within the hostel. He reportedly continued making obscene remarks toward other female residents and attempted to physically assault the pair. Following the complaint, police arrested Sharma. —BMB

RTI can't be tool to check on spouse's financial records

Court says income tax returns are personal information, directs spouses in maintenance disputes to seek financial disclosure through proper judicial process instead

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court has held that a spouse cannot use the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, to obtain the other spouse's Income Tax Returns or financial records, ruling that such details are protected as personal information. The court observed that the details disclosed by a person in income tax returns are information exempt from disclosure under clause (j) of Section 8(1) of the RTI Act unless an interest is established.

It further clarified that the expression public interest refers to a matter that goes beyond the individuals involved and affects the public at large, and therefore disputes relating to maintenance between spouses remain private.

The court said that refusal of information under the RTI Act does not prevent a spouse from seeking financial disclosure through appropriate legal proceedings before a competent court.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted that courts dealing with maintenance petitions have the authority to summon necessary financial records, including income tax returns, to properly determine the financial capacity of both parties involved in the dispute. The court stressed that maintenance cannot be fixed merely on the basis of oral statements or unverified claims and that documentary evidence should be relied upon whenever the income of either party is questioned.

It added that where there is a dispute regarding earnings, the trial court should consider exercising its powers to call for records from the Income Tax Department or other authorities to ensure a fair assessment.

In a key ruling on privacy and transparency, the High Court clarified that financial details cannot be accessed through RTI, but courts handling maintenance cases can summon income records to ensure fair assessment

IN HIGH COURT

Detention plea based on Google Maps

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a petition filed by a murder accused who alleged that he had been subjected to illegal detention, basing his claim on travel-time estimates drawn from Google Maps. The petitioner argued that the police violated his constitutional rights by failing to produce him before a magistrate within 24 hours of arrest. He claimed the delay between his apprehension and production before the court was unreasonable and amounted to unlawful detention. To support his plea, he relied on Google Maps data to show that the distance between the police station and the magistrate's court could be covered quickly. The State opposed the plea, saying the jurisdictional magistrate was unavailable and the accused had to be taken before another magistrate, causing delay. The court accepted the explanation, noting that transit time is excluded from the 24-hour rule and digital estimates alone cannot prove illegal custody or delay.

Live-in relationship not bigamy

The Karnataka High Court has quashed criminal proceedings initiated against a 73-year-old man, a woman alleged to be his second wife, and his children, holding that merely living in a relationship outside marriage does not amount to bigamy under Section 494 of the Indian Penal Code. The case arose from a private complaint filed by the man's wife, who accused him of maintaining illicit relationships and living with another woman in a relationship akin to marriage. She also named their children as accused, alleging they remained silent spectators to his conduct. A trial court in Mysuru had taken cognisance of offences under Section 494 read with Section 34 of the IPC, leading the accused to approach the High Court.

Allowing the plea, the court held that the complaint failed to show a second marriage and ruled that Section 494 applies only to the spouse alleged to have remarried, quashing proceedings.

Child marriage illegality stands despite later harmony

The Karnataka High Court has held that a child marriage does not lose its illegality merely because the couple continues to live together peacefully after attaining majority, stressing that the validity of a marriage must be assessed at the time it was solemnised. The observation came in a case where it was argued that the couple, who had married while one or both were minors, were now adults and living together without dispute, and therefore the earlier illegality should be ignored. Rejecting this contention, the court ruled that later developments cannot cure a violation that existed at the inception of the marriage, stating that a couple living happily later will not wipe out the illegality committed at the time of marriage. The Bench noted that laws prohibiting child marriage are meant to protect minors from entering marital relationships before they are legally and emotionally capable. Treating such marriages as valid due to later cohabitation would defeat the purpose of these laws.

The court emphasised that statutory conditions, including minimum age, must be satisfied at the time of marriage, and illegality cannot be retrospectively validated by subsequent conduct.

Graduate unemployment rises as jobs lag

India is facing a challenging shift from education to employment, with graduate unemployment remaining high, according to the Azim Premji University report State of Working India 2026. Nearly 40% of graduates aged 15–25 are unemployed, and only a small share secure stable jobs soon after finishing studies. The report warns that India's demographic dividend will peak before 2030, making urgent job creation essential for sustaining economic growth and stability. While higher education access has expanded and enrolment has improved, financial pressures are pushing many young men out of college. Infrastructure has grown, mostly through private institutions, but faculty shortages and quality concerns remain. Education has become more inclusive, yet professional courses remain costly. Graduates earn more than non-graduates, but wage growth is slowing, as youth shift to manufacturing, services, and migration-driven employment across states. — BMB

India Post launches 24-hour metro delivery service

India Post has launched upgraded delivery services, '24 Speed Post' and '48 Speed Post', marking a major improvement to its flagship Speed Post introduced in 1986 to ensure reliable, time-bound delivery. The '24 Speed Post' offers guaranteed next-day (D+1) delivery between six metro cities — Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Delhi — with priority handling at every stage. Customers will receive OTP-based delivery confirmation at no extra cost, and delays will be eligible for a full postage refund, subject to claims. Bulk and corporate users will benefit from credit facilities, free pick-up, volume discounts and a National Account billing system. The '48 Speed Post' guarantees two-day (D+2) delivery across the same metro network with similar features. In Bengaluru, 42 post offices will handle '24 Speed Post', while all city offices will provide '48 Speed Post', supporting growing e-commerce and logistics demand. — BMB

Tigress electrocuted: Live wire menace in spotlight

Two-year-old tigress electrocuted by illegal farm fencing in Chamrajnagar border village, raising fresh concerns over rising human-wildlife conflict and poor coordination efforts

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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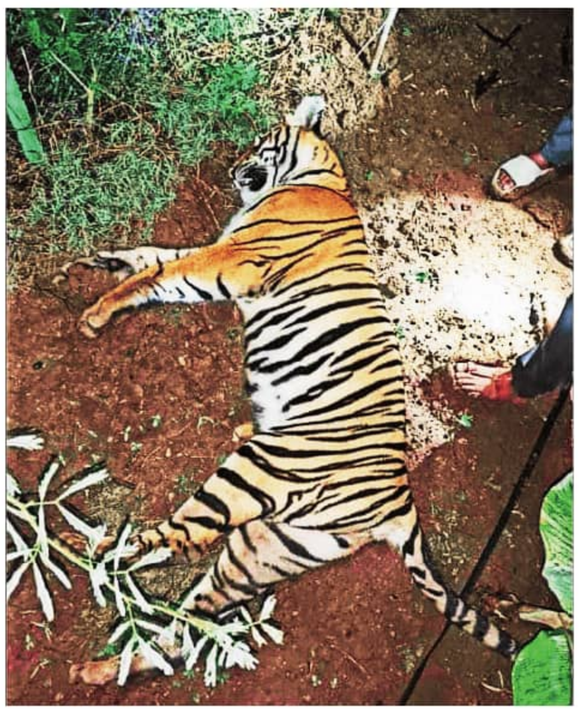
A tiger died of electrocution near Bandipur Tiger Reserve on March 16. The carcass was found next to a banana plantation in Padaguru, a border area to Chamarajanagar, a senior official of the Karnataka Forest Department informed BM. According to the department, the electrocution occurred after the animal came in contact with an illegal live wire fence set up around the plantation.

Officials said the farmer had allegedly drawn electricity illegally from a nearby borewell connection to power the fence. A case has been registered under the Electricity Act and the Wildlife (Protection) Act at the nearest police station. The farmer is currently absconding, the department confirmed. The tigress, believed to be nearly two years old, had reportedly been moving around the village area for the past two weeks. Villagers had alerted forest officials about cattle kills and pugmark sightings during this period.

"We received reports of a tiger sighting nearly 10 days ago. The department was tracking the animal using drone surveillance and monitoring pugmarks in the area. On Monday, fresh pugmarks were spotted and surveillance was intensified. Unfortunately, the tigress came in contact with the live wire before the team could locate and capture her," the official said. Wildlife conservationists, however, said the incident highlights gaps in communication between the department and local residents in conflict-prone areas. Joseph Hoover, former member of the State Board of Wildlife and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust, said the department should have taken farmers into confidence while planning to capture the animal.

"There were reports of at least four cattle kills in recent days. The villagers were already under pressure due to repeated wildlife conflict. Better coordination and timely communication could have prevented the use of illegal fencing and possibly avoided the tigress' death," he said.



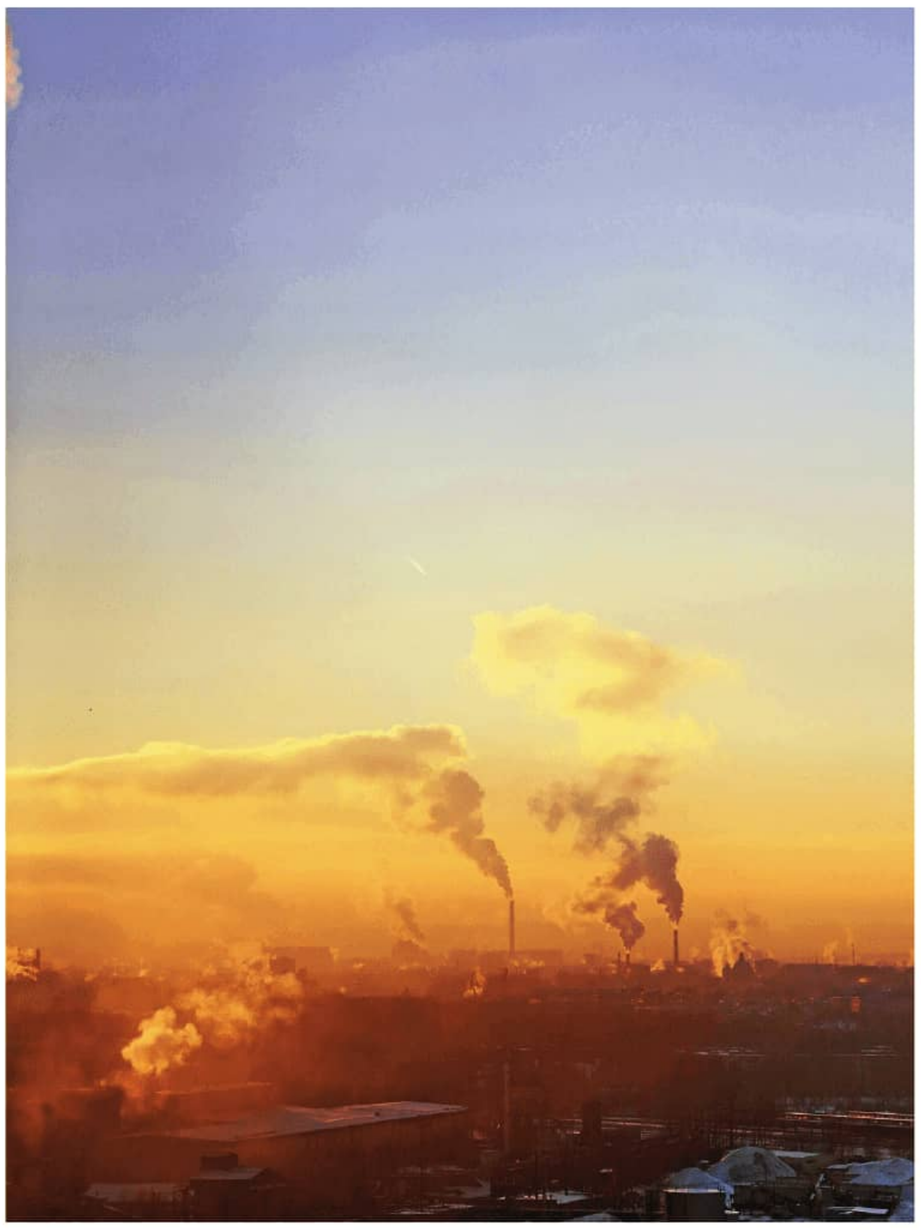
Despite intensified surveillance and reports of tiger movement in the village, the animal died after coming in contact with an illegally powered fence

Clear edge in pollution battle

Bengaluru records cleanest atmosphere, maintaining consistently low particulate concentrations across analysed Indian metropolitan regions year-round

A new report has found that Bengaluru continues to record comparatively cleaner air than several other major Indian cities, maintaining the lowest and most stable levels of fine particulate pollution among those analysed.

The study, titled "Meteorology-Driven Persistence of PM2.5 Pollution in Indian Cities: Implications for NCAP Phase-III," was prepared by Climate Trends and examines how weather patterns influence the persistence of PM2.5 pollution across six major urban centres — Delhi, Patna, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru.



Findings show seasonal spikes, December surges and monsoon dips, while northern cities face persistent smog and hazardous air

Analysis based on CPCB data

The findings draw on air quality monitoring data from 2024 and 2025, compiled by the Central Pollution Control Board. Researchers analysed station-averaged observations alongside meteorological clustering to understand how PM2.5 levels behaved across different months, seasons and weather regimes.

According to the report, Bengaluru consistently recorded lower PM2.5 concentrations than the other cities in the study. Median pollution levels remained relatively stable throughout the year, with only a mild increase during the winter season. The narrow variation between monthly readings indicates that the city experiences fewer extreme pollution spikes compared with northern urban centres.

This relative stability has positioned Bengaluru as the least polluted among the six cities examined in the report.

Seasonal trends

Seasonal averages further highlight the city's comparatively favourable air quality conditions. In 2024, Bengaluru recorded a winter mean PM2.5 concentration of 37.4 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³), while summer levels averaged 35.7 µg/m³. Pollution dropped significantly during the monsoon months, with concentrations averaging 15.7 µg/m³, before rising again to 33.3 µg/m³ in the post-monsoon season.

In 2025, the report observed a slight deterioration in winter air quality, with average PM2.5 levels rising to 42.4 µg/m³. However, other seasons saw notable improvements. Summer pollution levels declined sharply to 24.7 µg/m³, while monsoon concentrations fell further to 13.4 µg/m³. Post-monsoon levels also improved, averaging 28.6 µg/m³.

These changes indicate that although winter pollution episodes continue to affect the city, overall air quality improved in several other seasons in 2025 compared with the previous year.

Monthly variations

Monthly averages show similar trends. In 2024, the highest PM2.5 levels were recorded in March, with a mean concentration of 46.2 µg/m³. January and February followed closely, with averages of 39.6 µg/m³ and 39.4 µg/m³, respectively.

The cleanest air was recorded during the monsoon months of June and July, when average pollution levels dropped to around 11–12 µg/m³ due to rainfall and favourable atmospheric conditions that help disperse pollutants.

In 2025, most months showed lower pollution levels than the previous year, particularly during April and May, which recorded averages of 26.9 µg/m³ and 15.2 µg/m³, respectively. However, winter trends were mixed. While January remained relatively high at 40.4 µg/m³, December saw a sharp spike to 52.2 µg/m³ — the highest monthly average recorded in the two-year period analysed.

Northern cities remain most polluted

While Bengaluru recorded comparatively stable and lower pollution levels, the study found that Delhi remained the most severely polluted city among those analysed, with the highest annual PM2.5 concentrations and prolonged periods of hazardous air quality during winter.

Patna ranked as the second-most polluted city in the analysis, while Mumbai and Chennai experienced an increase in their annual pollution levels in 2025.

Overall, the report notes that Bengaluru's air quality profile remains relatively favourable compared with other large Indian cities. However, it also cautions that episodic winter pollution events continue to pose challenges and highlight the need for sustained air quality management measures.

—BMB

WAR UPDATES

KAUSHIK JN

Protest simmers
Members of AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) protest against the central government for the shortage of LPG in the country at Freedom Park on Tuesday

Iran's security chief killed?

Israel said on Tuesday it had killed Iran's security chief, even as a senior Iranian official claimed the country's new supreme leader had rejected de-escalation efforts, insisting Israel and the United States must first be "brought to their knees". An official said two intermediary nations conveyed ceasefire proposals to Iran's Foreign Ministry, but no details were shared. Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei reportedly rejected the proposals, saying it was not the "right time for peace". He has not been seen publicly since taking power.

The conflict has entered its third week, with over 2,000 deaths reported and no clear path to resolution. The Strait of Hormuz remains largely shut, disrupting a route that carries roughly 20% of global oil and liquefied natural gas. Efforts by US President Donald Trump to rally allies to reopen the channel have so far failed. Oil prices rose 2%, up 45% since the war began, after Iran's UAE strikes. Israel says it killed Basij leader Gholamreza Soleimani, but Tehran has not confirmed it.

—Reuters

'Taking all steps to sort LPG shortage'

The central government on Tuesday assured the Bombay High Court that it is taking all possible steps, both domestically and internationally, to address hardships caused by the LPG shortage amid the ongoing West Asia conflict.

The Nagpur Bench accepted the Centre's submission and disposed of a petition filed by LPG distributors, noting that the government is taking "all necessary steps" to safeguard public interest.

The court earlier issued notices to the Petroleum Ministry and a private firm over a plea by LPG distributors seeking increased domestic supply, and directed that household supply follow existing policy. Petitioners alleged Confidence Petroleum India Ltd failed to boost domestic supply despite priority directives, citing crude disruptions that constrained LPG production. In an affidavit, Under Secretary Ramesh Krishna said the government is monitoring the situation and ensuring supply. The Centre said sensitive matters need not be discussed in court and warned of action against violations. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged closure, and the bench ended the case.

—PTI

SOCIALTATTLE

#StopIndiaSpitting
Remembering these powerful words from PUNEETH RAJKUMAR on 17th March, his birth anniversary
"If we spit, it will spread the virus from one to another. So please avoid spitting on the streets. Politely tell anyone you see spitting, not to spit."
Powerstar Puneeth Rajkumar made this appeal for the #StopIndiaSpitting movement in July 2020. Covid is gone and he is sadly no longer with us, yet his words are even more powerful today.
Save the video, show it to anyone spitting in public. It is helping drive change on the ground. Polite requests and reminders are making a difference.
SPREAD THE MESSAGE – spitting spreads disease & filth. Spitting must stop!
beautifulbharatorg and stopindiaspitting
Bengaluru,Karnataka
beautifulbharatorg Edited • 45m
Remembering Puneeth Rajkumar on his 5th birth anniversary 17th March and recalling with gratitude his support to our #StopIndiaSpitting movement.
This poster captures the gist of his June 2020 video appeal to his fans - not to spit in public places and to influence others to stop. This was his valuable contribution to a crucial social cause. This issue of public spitting is relevant even now with increasing gutka chewing and higher spitting frequency on our streets.
Please save this video (link in bio) and show to those you may pass who are spitting on the streets, if you live in Karnataka. People are now listening, when they know it's a message from him, because he was much revere and
2
46 minutes ago
Log in to like or comment.

Today marks the birth anniversary of late Kannada superstar Puneeth Rajkumar, and social media is flooded with tributes. Among that one viral post honouring his powerful message urging citizens to stop public spitting and keep our streets clean.

Alfin
@AlfinCodes
My cousin moved to Bangalore for a ₹1.5L/month tech job.
Six months later, he realised something no one tells freshers.
Computer Science graduate
First software developer job
Moved to Bengaluru for better opportunities
Salary: ₹1.5L per month
Back home, everyone thought he had made it.
Big tech job.
Big city.
Big salary.
But a few months later, reality looked different.
Rent for a small apartment near the office: ₹36K
Food & groceries: ₹13K-15K
Cabs & autos (traffic is insane): ₹6K-8K
Swiggy, coffee, weekends out: ₹10K-12K
Then come the things nobody talks about.
Subscriptions.
Medical expenses.
Unexpected bills.
Sending money back home.
By the end of the month...
Savings were barely ₹15K-20K.
That's when he realised something most people outside big cities don't see.
₹1L+ salary sounds huge in your hometown.
But in a city like Bangalore, it often just means you're getting started.
Big salary.
Small savings.
Welcome to Banglore life.
3:19 PM · Mar 13, 2026 · 183.2K Views

The "₹1.5 Lakh Salary" Struggle: A post by user AlfinCodes has sparked a massive debate about the real cost of living in India's tech hub.

A tweet by user @Pranj_Sometimes highlights that the tech city is becoming a dream location for many people coming from across India to work, study and explore business opportunities.

Pranjali
@Pranj_Sometimes
X.com
Bangalore is probably the only city where you can hear 10 different languages in one coffee shop. People from every state live, work, and dream here.
Bangalore isn't just a city. It's Mini India.

That went viral
Everything is pricier now as a Bengalurean's lemondade bill shows. The bill featuring a "Gas Crisis Charge" on Lemonade from Theo Café went viral. The cafe had upped prices by 5% added to an order of two mint lemonades.

Retailers, customers in a bind

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and bromine, which are critical for semiconductor manufacturing. Industry sources say supply disruptions in global markets have pushed up production costs. Rising crude oil prices have also added to the burden, making chip manufacturing and transportation more expensive.

Supply disruptions

Global logistics issues are further compounding the problem. Shipping routes have been affected, leading to higher freight and insurance costs. Deliveries are getting delayed, and some models are either unavailable or in limited supply. "We are unable to commit delivery timelines for certain brands. Even distributors are unsure," said a dealer in Jayanagar.

The price rise is already affecting purchase decisions. "I had shortlisted a laptop last month, but now the price has gone up by nearly 7,000. I may have to either increase my budget or wait," said Nikhil, a college student. IT professionals are also feeling the pressure.

"In Bengaluru, a laptop is not a luxury, it is a necessity. With prices going up like this, upgrades are becoming difficult," said Shreya, a software engineer. Another buyer, Manoj, said, "I was planning to buy two laptops for my children, but now I am reconsidering. The cost difference is significant."

Retailers say they are caught in a difficult situation. "Sales have slowed down because customers are hesitant.

At the same time, we cannot absorb the rising costs," said Imran, who runs a store in Malleshwaram. Another trader noted, "If this trend continues, demand will drop further, especially in the mid-range segment."

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Padmakshi Nippani Lakshmikanthan, Resident, B1404, Brigade Gateway, Dr Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560055 (Reference Passport no P1148786) changed my name from Padmakshi Jagannathan to Padmakshi Nippani Lakshmikanthan for all further purposes.

I RISHABH SANDEEP RAJA S/o, Sandeep Raja, Residing at, F-501, Adarsh Gardens, 47th cross,8th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560070. have changed my name to RISHABH RAJA for all purposes.

I, Sulakshana, aged 51yrs, DOB:23/02/1975, D/o Shivaji Dhondiba Patil, R/o 326, Prestige Augusta Golf Village, Kada Agrahara Road, Rampura, Biderahalli, Bengaluru 560049, hereby declare that my name before marriage was Sulakshana Patil. After marriage, I have changed my surname and henceforth shall be known as Sulakshana Kumar. Both names Sulakshana Patil and Sulakshana Kumar refer to one and the same person residing at the above mentioned address.

I, Bhavyalatha Rai A W/o Pushparaja Shetty P R/o #2, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Chamundeshwari Layout, Doddabommasandra Vidyaranyapura Po B'lore 560097 have changed my name to Bhavyalatha P Shetty

I, Sherkhan R/o No 225 3rd Cross 16th Main Lbs Nagar BDA Layout 10th Block Anjanapura Bengaluru 560062 Have changed my name to Sherkhan Abdul Hameed for all Purposes.

I, Roopa Nagendra, W/o G Nagendra R/at, No.23, Sri Madhva Krupa, 2nd A Cross, NGEF Layout road, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-560072, here by declare that my minor son's name is Achyutha Krishna N and Achyuta Krishna N, both the names belongs to my son's only, vide affidavit dt: 17.03.2026 before notary Devaraja E, B.lore. Henceforth my son's name shall be called in future ACHYUTHA KRISHNA N only.

I, Santhosh Kumar R. S/o Rajanna, R/at No.47, 1st Main road, Arunachalam Layout, Papareddy Palya, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560072, here by declare that SANTHOSH KUMAR R and SANTOSHAKUMAR R, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 13.03.2026, before notary Devaraja E, B.lore. Henceforth I shall be called in furure SANTHOSH KUMAR R only.

I, Stella Asha Mary Thangaraj, D/O. Thangaraj John, R/o.No.43, CMR Lane, Malar Villa, 1st Floor, Thomas Town Post, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore -560084, have changed my name to Stella Asha Mary.

I, Mohammad Zuber Allauddin Jamadar, son of Allauddin, residing at 12, 2nd Floor, Rajappa 1st Cross, Marappa Thota, Munireddy Palya, JC Nagar, Bengaluru 560006, have changed my name to Mohammadzuber Jamadar for all purposes.

I, Umer Saheb Syed Ibrahim Syed S/O Syed Umer Saheb R/o No 12 1st Flr Kannuarahalli Main Rd Opp Om Shakthi Temple 2nd Cross Hosakote Bangalore Rural 562114 have changed my name to Syed Ibrahim .

I, Masood R/o #1205 8th cross Rama Krishna Hegde Nagar post Dr shivarama kranath nagar Bangalore -560077 have changed my minor son's name from Mohammed Zain to Mohammed Zain. M.

I, Khaleelulla Mohammed Basha. S/o Mohammed Basha. R/o Old No 20 New No 39 , Old Korchi Palya B Street Shivaji Nagar Blore 560051 Have Changed My Name to Khaleel Ulla. For All Purposes.

I Erappa Basappa Binjavadiga S/O, Basappa Binjawadagi R/o # 69 Greenway Layout 1st Main 3rd Cross Hulimangala Post S Bingipura Bangalore 560105 have changed my name to Veeresh B Binjawadagi .

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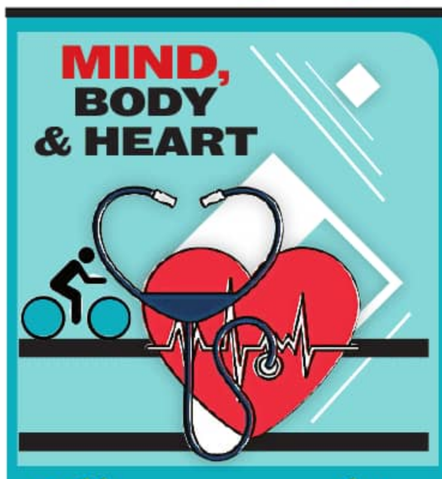
13TH MARCH TO 22ND MARCH 2026
10.30 AM - 8.30 PM
VENUE:
WHITE HOUSSE CONVENTION CENTRE
(Dinning Area)
Next to BDA Complex, Sector 6, 14th Main, HSR Layout, Bengaluru – 560 102.
FOR DETAILS CONTACT : 8073505441 / 6364685716
10 DAYS EXHIBITION
50+ STALLS
30+ CRAFTSMAN
FREE ENTRY & PARKING

HEALTH TIP: Avoid applying highly acidic or alkaline kitchen ingredients like lemon or baking soda directly, as they can damage skin barrier and cause irritation

Eating avocados regularly supports heart health, improves digestion and keeps you fuller longer due to healthy fats



All you need to know about...

Over sharing

Oversharing on a first date might seem like honesty, but it often creates discomfort rather than connection. First dates are meant for light conversation, curiosity and gradual discovery, not emotional overload or unsolicited personal revelations.

Skipping the basics
Dating works best as a slow process of getting to know someone. When someone shares deeply personal details too quickly, it removes the sense of mystery and makes the interaction feel rushed. Instead of building curiosity, it can feel like too much information too soon, leaving little room for natural connection.

No clear boundaries
Oversharing often signals a lack of personal boundaries. When someone reveals everything immediately, it suggests they may not understand limits in conversations or relationships. This can also raise concerns about how they might handle other people's boundaries in the future.

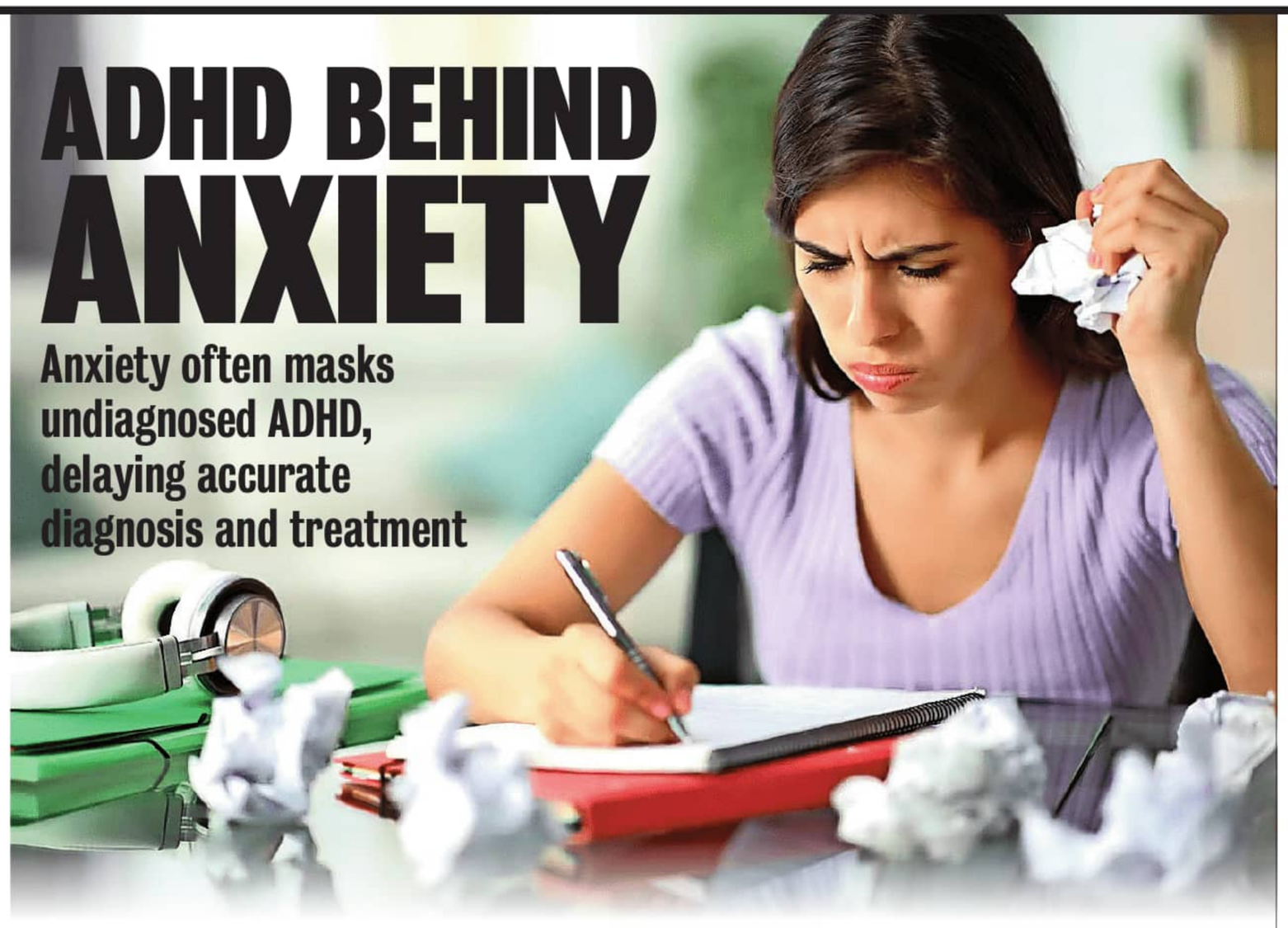
Free therapy session
A first date should never feel like emotional labour. Oversharing can turn a simple outing into a one-sided counselling session, placing an unfair emotional burden on someone who is still a stranger. This imbalance can make the experience uncomfortable and draining.

Poor emotional control
Everyone has personal struggles but sharing them without context or timing can signal poor emotional regulation. It shows difficulty in filtering what is appropriate, hinting that deeper emotional work may still be needed before forming healthy connections.

All about them
The first date should be a two-way exchange. Constant oversharing shifts focus entirely on one person, leaving no space for the other. This can come across as self-absorbed and prevent meaningful interaction or mutual interest from developing. —Femina

ADHD BEHIND ANXIETY

Anxiety often masks undiagnosed ADHD, delaying accurate diagnosis and treatment



For decades, one of the greatest challenges in treating neurological disorders like attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder has been that its symptoms often resemble those of several other conditions. Overlapping disorders are extremely common in neurological diagnoses.

A child who struggles to sit still, focus or complete tasks could have ADHD, anxiety, a learning disability or be reacting to stress at home. A teenager who seems emotionally volatile and impulsive might be showing early signs of a mood disorder, ADHD or trauma. An adult who constantly misses deadlines, forgets obligations and feels chronically overwhelmed might be dealing with workplace burnout, a severe anxiety disorder or undiagnosed ADHD.

I am a practicing psychiatrist at the National Medical Center "20 de Noviembre" in Mexico City, and a professor of medicine at UNAM. In my work, I frequently see cases that initially look like anxiety, but this issue is often only the tip of the iceberg. Anxiety improves, and what emerges is undiagnosed with ADHD.

The reverse can also be true: What looks like ADHD sometimes turns out to be driven primarily by anxiety. However, I most frequently see the opposite scenario. Young adults seek treatment for severe anxiety, but clinical evaluation often shows their condition is rooted in executive functions such as planning and problem-solving that have been fragile since childhood. Patients have compensated for years through exhausting effort and fear of failure.

How ADHD lurks

I had been seeing a patient in his late 20s for anxiety when he came convinced, he was finally improving. He had stopped having panic attacks, was sleeping better and no longer lived in fear. After months of antidepressants and cognitive behavioral therapy, the crises seemed controlled.

During childhood, ADHD symptoms are often interpreted as personality traits. A child may be labeled distracted, impulsive or restless. Over time, people compensate through excessive effort, perfectionism or self-monitoring, raising stress and triggering anxiety later.

When the brain leaves survival mode

Anxiety is often the first way the body expresses overload. When this response eases, underlying struggles with planning, organisation, attention and time management surface.

Studies show a strong association between ADHD traits, anxiety and depression. Research in the United Kingdom found ADHD traits predict emotional problems more strongly than traits related to the autism spectrum. Reviews indicate that 25% to 50% of adults with ADHD experience anxiety at some point, and major depressive disorder is also more common. For many, anxiety results from years of functioning with an impaired executive system that manages planning, organisation and impulse control.

Why ADHD can elude early detection

It is easy to misinterpret ADHD symptoms as character traits. Impulsivity may appear as bad temper, disorganisation as laziness and inattention as lack of interest. In adults, these are often seen as personal flaws rather than neuropsychiatric conditions. ADHD rarely causes physical symptoms, but anxiety does. Palpitations, fear or insomnia drive people to seek care, while attention issues remain overlooked. ADHD is strongly genetic, with inheritance rates of 70% to 80%, and shared traits within families are often considered normal behaviour.

Primary anxiety v/s anxiety due to ADHD

The key clinical question is: What remains when anxiety decreases? If distress diminishes but symptoms persist such as prolonged procrastination, difficulty initiating tasks, frequent forgetfulness, constant restlessness, daily disorganisation and easy distraction, the pattern aligns more with adult ADHD. A formal diagnosis requires assessment of symptoms present since childhood and impairment across multiple life areas. Clinicians rule out other causes using structured tools and scales. Neurobiological studies show differences in brain regions, including white matter connections and reward circuitry, along with imbalances in dopamine and norepinephrine that affect attention, motivation and impulse control.

The risk of treating

Antidepressants and therapy reduce emotional distress but do not address attention difficulties that disrupt daily functioning. If the root remains untreated, improvement is partial and cycles of distress continue. When I explain how anxiety can mask ADHD, patients feel both relief and frustration as they understand their history but realise years were spent misinterpreting symptoms as flaws.

Studies show adults with anxiety and untreated ADHD experience greater impairment and more frequent relapses. They live with self-reproach that harms self-esteem, repeating cycles of improvement and relapse without identifying the main problem. The good news is that once ADHD is diagnosed, it is treatable. Evidence shows treatment reduces impulsivity and improves attention and functioning at all ages. Regulating dopamine and norepinephrine helps patients initiate tasks and sustain effort.

When this happens, secondary anxiety often decreases more deeply because people no longer struggle to keep up. Relationships, work and daily life improve. Identifying hidden ADHD does not erase the past, but it changes the future, allowing people to move from surviving to living more functional lives.

Deldhy Nicolás Moya Sánchez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) (The Conversation)

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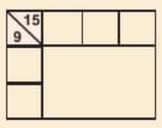
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

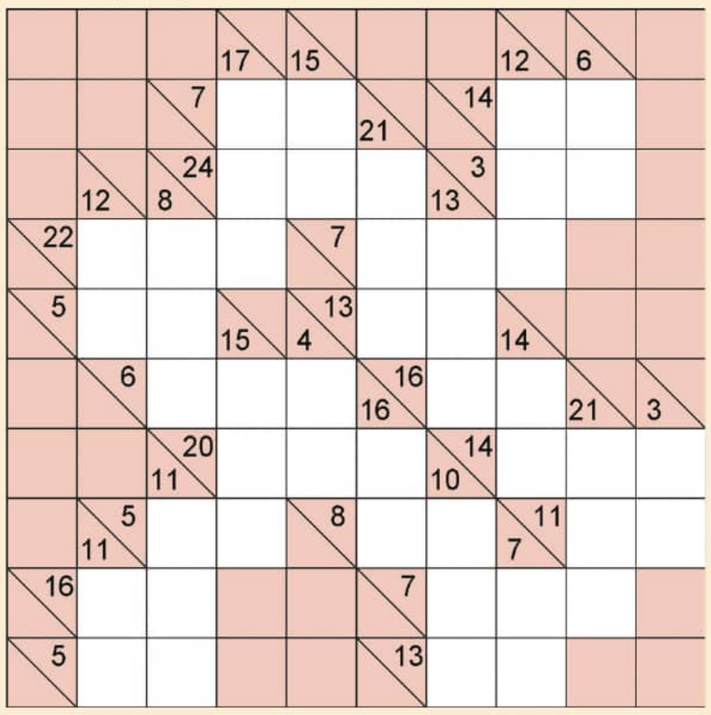
[((10 + 3 x 5) / √25) / (1/5)] = ?

Kakuro

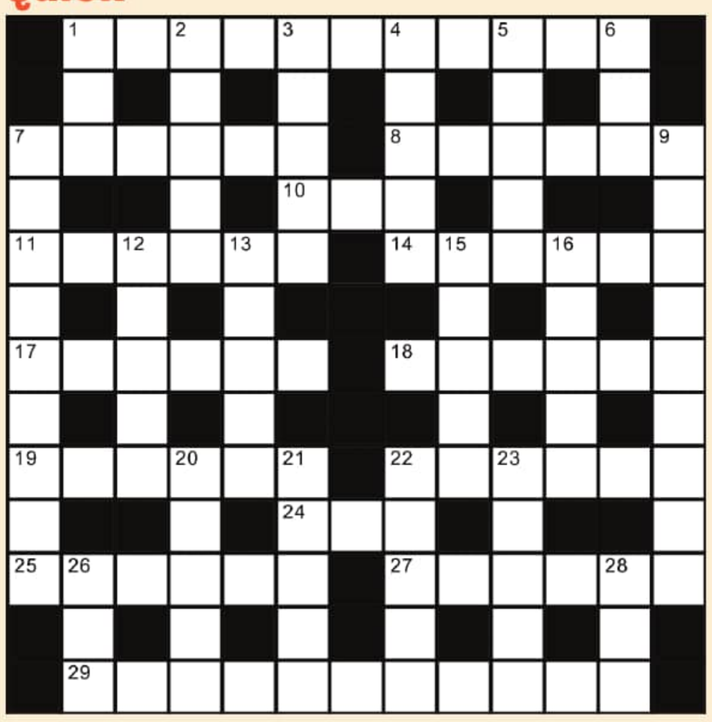
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Great work of art (11)
7 Part of a legal contract (6)
8 Three-legged stand (6)
10 Modern prefix (3)
11 Badgered constantly (6)
14 Periods of darkness (6)
17 A solemn promise or agreement (6)
18 Martial art (4,2)
19 Affectedly elegant in speech or bearing (2-2-2)
22 Revolutionaries (6)
24 Tea (3)
25 Seven for music (6)
27 Sent out or emitted (6)
29 Planetarium (11)

DOWN

1 __ de mer (seasickness) (3)
2 Bit, burnt or smarted? (5)
3 Edit a text by removing flaws, errors, etc. (5)
4 __ __ weight : become fatter? (3,2)
5 Supplementing with difficulty (5)
6 Sense of self (3)
7 Multiplex on Banerghatta road (9)
9 Talked over (9)
12 Avarice (5)
13 ___ on : encouraged or abetted ? (5)
15 Habituate or get used to (5)
16 The ____ : Netherlands' famous city? (5)
20 Tiny amounts? (5)
21 Thespian (5)
22 Pulao accompaniment (5)
23 Man singer with a low deep sounding voice (5)
26 Prefix meaning "nature" (3)
28 English city in the fens (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS G

KL K YJBJ ESEKX AJSKXXKXS FZ VQGHKJV, K YNGRH LNRRNY QOJ EHTKWJ NL DREQN EXH VQEBQ YKQO FEQOJFEQKWV.

Linemaro

I can figure out the square root of any number in less than 10 seconds. What? You don't believe me? Well, then, let's try it with your phone number

Mindchow

If you shoot at a king, you must kill him

Joke of the day

Hell isn't merely paved with good intentions, it is walled and roofed with them

Loop

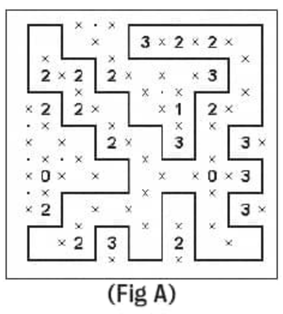
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

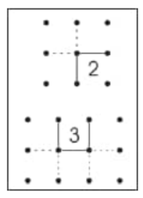
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

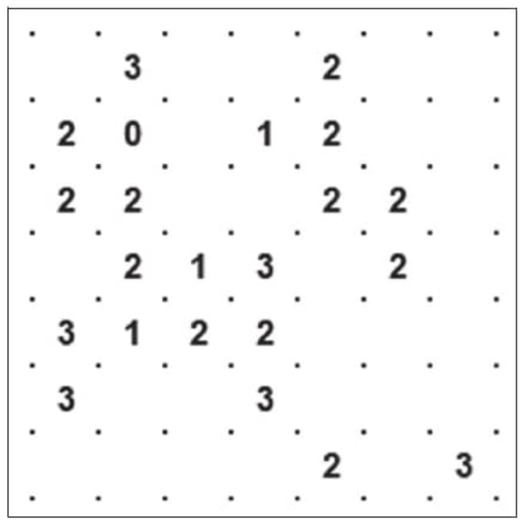
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



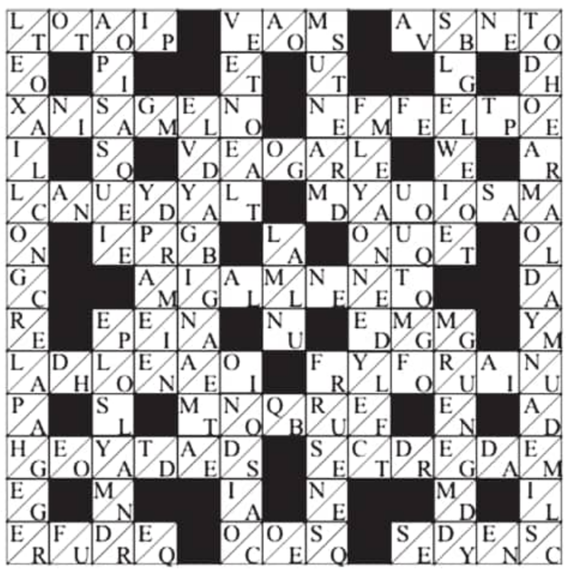
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 R	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Laser; 6 Ree Nu; 7 Warts; 8 Aries; 9 Wared

DOWN

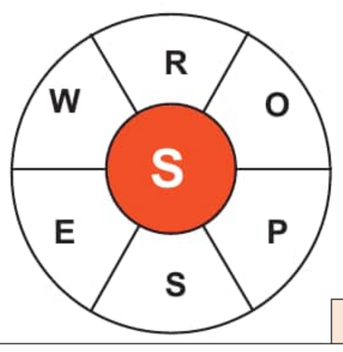
1 Wears; 2 A rant; 3 UR lid; 4 A seer; 5 Resew

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the empty box?

2	11	20
4	9	32
7	8	49
4	10	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1		8		4		
	7			3			8	
	4		6		5		7	
		4	9		1	8		
8								9
		9	8		6	3		
	1		2		9		3	
	9			1			5	
		3		4		1		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7

2 6 5 4

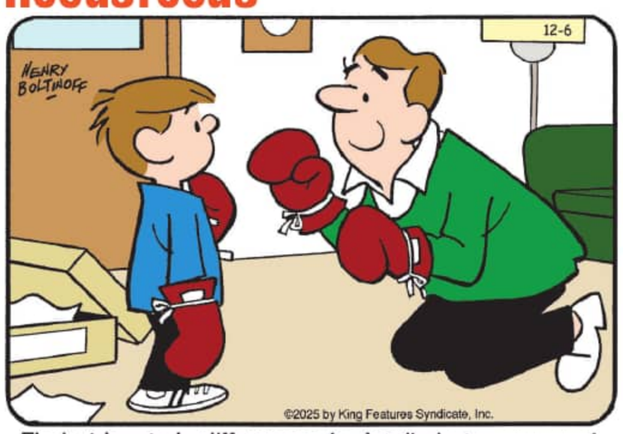
Medium = 18

5 7 7 1

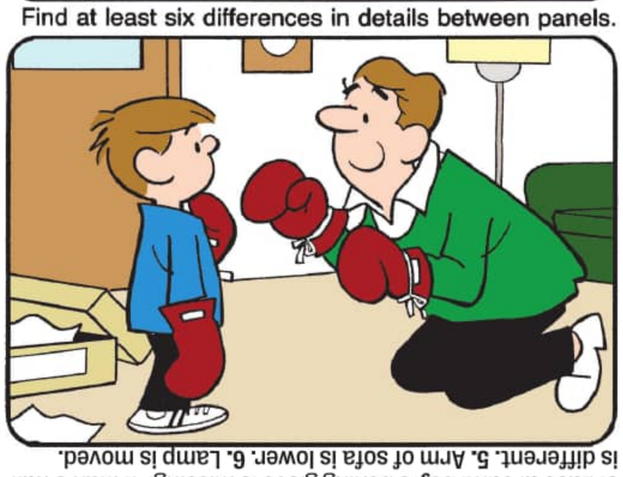
Hard = 5

2 4 8 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



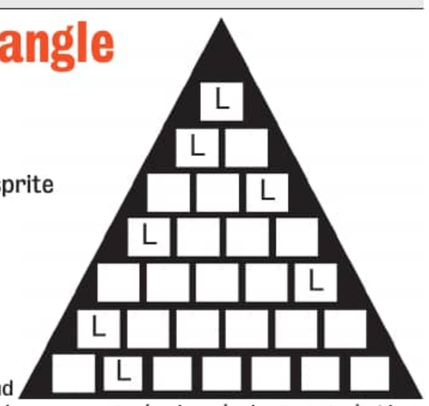
Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Box lid is smaller. 3. Lace around boy's boxing glove is missing. 4. Man's hair is different. 5. Arm of sofa is lower. 6. Lamp is moved.

Riddler

9 cats Andar, Balak, Collo, Erec, Indan, Kyft, Meva, Qupuwu, & Yitsim are positioned in a 3 by 3 grid; you know 3 things about them: 1. Balak, the leader, always sits in the top left. 2. Erec, the kitten, never sits in the top row. 3. None of the adjacent cats (even diagonal) share a single letter. Where are they positioned?

Alpha triangle

1 The 12th letter
2 Scale member
3 Feel unwell
4 Burrow
5 Shakespearean sprite
6 More indolent
7 Window mender

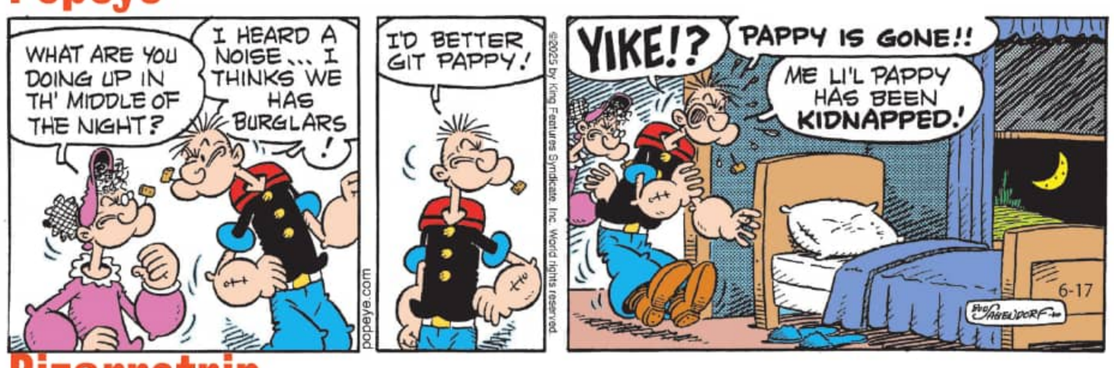


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP IN TH' MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
I HEARD A NOISE... I THINKS WE HAS BURGLARS!
I'D BETTER GIT PAPPY!
YIKE!?
PAPPY IS GONE!!
ME LI'L PAPPY HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED!
6-17
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THANKS FOR INVITING ME OVER, CHARLOTTE, BUT SHOVELING...IS NOT FUN.
IT IS WHEN YOU'RE MAKING FAT STACKS!
FAT STACKS OF WHAT? SNOW?
MONEY, DEAN! MONEY!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
12/9

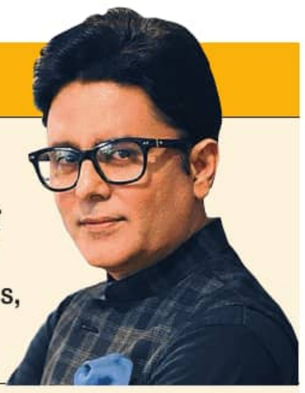
Crankshaft

Mutts

HEY, EARL— WHAT'CHA DOING?
LOOK-ING FOR A BELLY RUB.
ALL I SEE IS A CEILING
MUTTS © PATRICK MCDONNELL · DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
12-6
mutts.com

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Compassion shapes your success today. Love feels tender and understanding. Career fulfillment grows through service and collaboration. Financial stability improves with mindful generosity. Travel opens your heart to new cultures or ideas. Home feels emotionally rich and supportive. When you lead with kindness, the universe responds with warmth and meaningful rewards.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

You've helped many people recently, leaving you drained. Take a short break now, because fresh challenges arrive soon, and resting briefly will restore strength, focus, and resilience before demands increase.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Your emotions swung between extremes lately; it's time to regain balance. Remember you cannot let feelings dominate decisions constantly, or clarity, stability, and good judgment will suffer unnecessarily over time.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Positive surprises suit you now, as an unexpected revelation arrives. Someone you thought fully understood will share a secret soon, reshaping perceptions and leaving you genuinely amazed by it all.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

If change is desired, reflect seriously today and tomorrow. Prepare to act soon, because embracing bold adjustments will improve direction, ambition, and long-term satisfaction significantly for your evolving life path.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Personal chemistry may clash, yet professional cooperation remains possible. Working efficiently together can even benefit you, saving time, reducing distractions, and keeping interactions focused and productive at work daily always.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

If criticism is necessary today, choose words that build, not break. Encouragement strengthens confidence now, increasing chances others perform better and grow from feedback later with care, patience, empathy, respect.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Being offered unfamiliar work today deserves caution. Declining feels uncomfortable, but saying no now may prevent stress, mistakes, and unnecessary complications later that drain energy, confidence, reputation, balance, peace badly.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

You usually hide negative emotions well, but today they surface. Expressing them now is healthier than silence, preventing resentment from growing stronger over time and harming future relationships, trust, stability.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Trying to analyse why someone feels upset won't help. Step back, stop probing, and allow space, letting them process feelings without your involvement, judgment, pressure, fixing, commentary, control, interference, expectations.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Recent excitement continues, yet home responsibilities soon increase. Balance plans carefully, reduce social commitments slightly, and prepare to manage domestic duties without overwhelm, stress, chaos, burnout, resentment, fatigue, neglect, imbalance.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

A friend's surprising behaviour reveals hidden sides. Release assumptions, stop projecting values, and accept them realistically, even when truth challenges your expectations, beliefs, ideals, comfort, narratives, judgments, illusions, attachments, preferences.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Trust intuition today and resist following crowds. If plans feel risky, decline participation calmly, knowing clarity later will validate your decision without regret, guilt, doubt, pressure, apology, explanation, compromise, fear.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

((10 + 15) / √25) / (1/5)]
[(25 / 5) / (1/5)]
5 / (1/5)
25 / 1 = 25

RIDDLER

Balak; Yitsim;
Andar Erec;
Qupuwu; Collo
Indan; Kyft;
Meva

STRIKE OUT

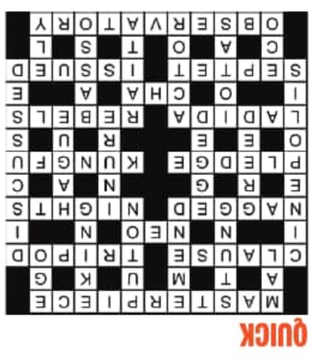
FAST FIVE

R	A	L	E	S
E	N	U	R	E
S	T	R	A	W
A	R	I	S	E
W	A	D	E	R

peso, pose, poser,
posse, press, prose,
PROWESS, rose, sore,
spew, spore, swore,
worse

BULL'S EYE

QUICK



QUOTE UNCODE

If I were again beginning my studies, I would follow the advice of Plato and start with mathematics.

MENSA PUZZLE

36. In rows, multiply the left and centre numbers then subtract the smaller of the numbers to give the right hand value.

SUDOKU

9	5	1	7	8	2	4	6	3
2	7	6	1	3	4	9	8	5
3	4	8	6	9	5	2	7	1
5	3	4	9	7	1	8	2	6
8	6	7	4	2	3	5	1	9
1	2	9	8	5	6	3	4	7
4	1	5	2	6	9	7	3	8
7	9	2	3	1	8	6	5	4
6	8	3	5	4	7	1	9	2

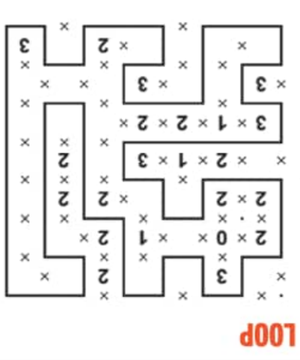
ALPHA TRIANGLE

L, La, All, Lair,
Ariel, Lazier,
Glazier.

GO FIGURE

Easy
4 – 5 + 2 + 6 = 7
Medium
5 + 7 – 1 + 7 = 18
Hard
2 + 4 + 8 – 9 = 5

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # Prabhu Deva sells property
Prabhu Deva sold two Mahalaxmi, Mumbai apartments for ₹14.8 crore, nearly equal to his 2012 purchase price; the flats were in a high-rise residential tower

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Joohi selected

The team of the upcoming Kannada film God Promise has finalised actress Joohi Jayakumar as the female lead after an extensive audition process that saw participation from nearly 5,000 aspiring actors. Joohi, who hails from Kerala, has previously appeared in Tamil films such as Thalaivan Thalaivi, Pavi Caretaker, and Sumathi Valavu. She was selected for the role after attending auditions conducted both offline and online in Bengaluru and Kundapur. According to the makers, around 4,000 participants attended the offline auditions, while more than 1,000 candidates joined the online selection process. After several rounds of screening, Joohi was chosen for the heroine's role and has already undergone a workshop as part of the preparation for the film.

Expressing her excitement, Joohi said she was happy to be part of God Promise and described her character as a strong role with ample scope to showcase her acting abilities. She also praised director Suchan Shetty for his innovative ideas and said she hopes the film will entertain audiences.

The film went on floors in May 2024, and nearly 40 percent of the shooting has been completed so far.

Suchan Shetty, a student of music director Ravi Basrur, is making his directorial debut with this project.

Debut direction

The Kannada film Love Seasons marks the directorial debut of theatre artiste Kruthvik, who has completed shooting for the movie and is currently busy with post-production work along with his team. The film was shot at several locations around Bengaluru, and the makers are now preparing to release the teaser soon. If everything goes as planned, the movie is expected to hit theatres in the last week of June.

Speaking about the film, Kruthvik said the story is inspired by real-life experiences. According to him, the script reflects emotions that many youngsters go through, including falling in love and facing break-ups for various reasons. He added that his own life experiences also played a role in shaping the story, which aims to connect with the youth while also delivering a meaningful message about the value of true love.

Kruthvik, who has been associated with theatre for several years, said he initially wanted to become an actor and attended many film auditions but did not get opportunities. Theatre artiste Kruthik debuts as director, Mukunda Rangaswamy plays hero, three heroines.

VICKY JOKE BACKLASH

Vicky's wedding joke on married life sparks debate, netizens question double standards

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal tied the knot in December 2021, and since then they have been serving couple goals for fans. The internet is especially fond of Vicky as a husband and often calls him a "green flag" because of the way he speaks about his wife in interviews and the way he looks at her during public appearances. His affectionate behaviour has earned him a very positive image online, which is why netizens were surprised to see a viral video of the actor now being discussed on social media.

In the video, shared on Reddit and other platforms, Vicky can be seen attending a wedding celebration. During the event, the actor stepped on stage and addressed the groom playfully. Referencing his famous line from Uri: The Surgical Strike, directed by Aditya Dhar, he said, "Sir, mujhe aap se ek hi sawal poochna hai. How's the josh?" The audience erupted in cheers as he recreated the iconic dialogue from the film.

Encouraged by the reaction, Vicky continued joking about married life. Turning to the audience, he said, "Dekha? Humesha maine yeh dekha hai bachelor's ka josh humesha high rehta hai. Hum shaadhishuda waalo ke toh thode se josh…" and made a crashing gesture, adding, "…Actually Akash ko tension lene ki zarurat nahi hai, 4 din mein josh kum nahi hota. But ek baar room se pooche 'how's the josh', and we all know what to say: 'high sir'. Correct?" The comment went viral, with some users criticising the joke. Many said if Ranbir Kapoor or Ranveer Singh had said the same, the backlash would have been much harsher. "If Ranbir or even Ranveer had said this, there would've been an arrest warrant by now." — **ETimes**

Kritika–Gaurav wedding tears

Actors Kritika Kamra and Gaurav Kapur officially tied the knot on March 11, 2026, in an intimate and emotional ceremony held at their Bandra residence in Mumbai. The couple opted for a simple registered marriage followed by a low-key celebration on their terrace, attended only by close friends and family. However, a video from the ceremony has gone viral online, with fans touched by the heartfelt moments shared between the two.

One of the most talked-about moments from the clip shows Gaurav Kapur getting emotional as Kritika made her bridal entry to the couple's favourite music. Before the ceremony, he shared his thoughts, saying that the gathering felt special because it included people who truly mattered to them, adding that in his heart they already felt married.

In the video, Kritika described Gaurav as her "home," saying that home is not a place but a person who makes everything feel right. The couple later exchanged varmalas and heartfelt vows, promising lifelong support and companionship. Kritika called herself a "forever kind of girl," while Gaurav assured her he would always stand behind her and support her dreams.

The ceremony was attended by celebrities including Farhan Akhtar, Angad Bedi, Neha Dhupia, Malaika Arora, Soha Ali Khan, along with former cricketers Yuvraj Singh, Virender Sehwag and Ashish Nehra, making the quiet wedding a star-studded yet deeply personal affair.

— **ETimes**

Sridevi property dispute

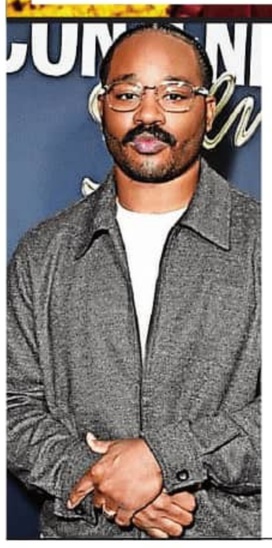
A property owned by late actress Sridevi on Chennai's East Coast Road (ECR) has been at the centre of a legal dispute for nearly a year, with the matter now pending before the Madras High Court. Producer Boney Kapoor and daughters Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor have challenged an order of an additional district court in Chengalpattu that refused to dismiss a civil suit concerning a 4.7-acre land parcel purchased by the actress in 1988.

The dispute began in 2025 after three individuals—MC Sivakami, her sister MC Natarajan and their mother Chandra-bhanu—claimed rights over a portion of the property and sought cancellation of four sale deeds executed in favour of Sridevi and her sister. They alleged the deeds were invalid and accused the family of fraudulently obtaining a patta for the land in 2023.

In their petition, the Kapoor family stated the land originally belonged to MC Sambanda Mudaliar and had been partitioned among his children in 1960. They further contended that Chandrabhanu's marriage to MC Chandrasekaran was void as it was contracted during the subsistence of his first marriage, and that this fact was suppressed in court.

The family also questioned the delay in filing the suit, noting they have held the property for nearly 38 years. The High Court has extended the interim stay on trial proceedings and will hear the revision petition on March 26, next week.

— **ETimes**



Secret sandwich code

The 2026 Oscar sensation Sinners had an unexpectedly ordinary code name during production: "Grilled Cheese." Director Ryan Coogler chose the harmless-sounding title to keep the project secret while filming a horror drama deeply rooted in blues music, Black culture, and American history. Cinematographer Autumn Durald Arkapaw revealed that the name reflected Coogler's vision of making something quick, raw, and satisfying, like a simple meal that still tastes great. Throughout filming, call sheets, emails, and on-set conversations all referred to the movie as "Grilled Cheese," helping the team hide the film's plot, including its supernatural twist, until the official reveal.

The gamble paid off. Sinners arrived at the 98th Academy Awards with a record-breaking 16 nominations and won four major awards, including Best Actor for Michael B Jordan, Best Original Screenplay for Coogler, Best Cinematography for Arkapaw, and Best Original Score for Ludwig Göransson. —**ETimes**